

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

BASE PANEL HAVING PARTITION AND PLASMA DISPLAY DEVICE UTILIZING
THE SAME

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Application No. 2000-23101, filed April 29, 2000 in the Korean Industrial Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a plasma display device, and more particularly, to a base panel having a partition structure which can prevent cross talk between adjacent pixels, and a plasma display panel utilizing the base panel.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] A plasma display panel generates light by exciting phosphors or a special gas, and using the reaction to form an image from the generated light. Plasma display panels are typically classified into an alternating current (AC) type, a direct current (DC) type, or a hybrid type.

[0004] An AC plasma display device includes a base panel and a front panel. The base panel includes address electrodes formed thereon, a lower dielectric layer formed on the resultant structure having the address electrodes, and partitions, formed on the lower dielectric

layer, to maintain a discharge gap and to prevent electrical and optical cross talk between cells defined between the partitions. The front panel is coupled to the base panel having the partitions, and has electrodes having a predetermined pattern, formed on its bottom surface orthogonally to the address electrodes, an upper dielectric layer covering the electrodes, and an MgO film formed on the top surface of the upper dielectric layer. A phosphor layer is formed on at least one side of a discharge space separated by the partitions.

[0005] In the plasma display device having the aforementioned configuration, as a predetermined voltage is applied to the respective electrodes of the front panel, cations are accumulated on the dielectric layer, a preliminary discharge occurs between one of the respective electrodes and the address electrodes to form charged particles, and a main discharge occurs between each of the respective electrodes formed on the front panel. Then, the phosphor layer is excited by ultraviolet (UV) rays generated during the main discharge to form an image.

[0006] In the plasma display device operating in the above-described manner, the partition that partitions the discharge space has a variety of shapes. A rib or barrier structure that is striped is conventionally known. In the striped barrier structure, since only three surfaces, that is, the bottom surface and sidewalls of barriers, are coated with the phosphor layer, the luminescence efficiency is relatively low.

[0007] Another conventional structure employs a waffled barrier structure. Since the barriers surround every surface of a discharge space, it is difficult to either exhaust gas from the discharge space partitioned by the barriers or to inject discharge gas into the discharge space during the manufacture of the plasma display device.

[0008] In the case of the waffled barrier, in order to facilitate exhaustion, protrusions are formed on top of the barrier using a dielectric material to maintain a gap between the barrier and front substrate. However, the protrusion forming step is a separate process, and charges

move through the gap formed between the barrier and the front substrate, which may cause a discharge error.

[0009] Another known solution is to use separator walls having a zig-zag, snaking, meandering structure. This structure forms channels having relatively wide discharge cells and narrow connecting parts. While these separator walls widen the discharge space to some extent, they cannot fundamentally solve the problem of cross talk between adjacent pixels.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] To solve the above and other problems, it is an object of the present invention to provide a base panel having a partition structure which can exhibit an improved level of luminance by increasing the coating area of a phosphor layer and which can improve the exhaustion efficiency of exhaust gas, and a plasma display device utilizing the base panel.

[0011] Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

[0012] To achieve the above and other objects a base panel according to an embodiment of the invention has a striped partition structure, the base panel including a panel member, an electrode layer formed on the panel member in a predetermined pattern, and the partition structure having unit partitions, discontinuously formed on the panel member parallel to each other, partitioning a discharge space.

[0013] According to an aspect of the invention, a dielectric layer covering the electrode layer is formed on the panel having the electrode layer.

[0014] According to another aspect of the invention, auxiliary partitions are provided at both ends of each of the unit partitions at a predetermined angle with respect to a lengthwise direction of the unit partition.

[0015] According to another embodiment of the present invention, a plasma display panel includes a first panel, address electrodes formed on the first panel in a predetermined pattern, a first dielectric layer formed on the first panel and covering the address electrodes, a partition structure having unit partitions discontinuously formed on the first dielectric layer to partition a discharge space, the unit partitions being parallel to the address electrodes and each having auxiliary partitions, red, green and blue phosphor layers coated in the partitioned discharge space, a second panel, which is coupled to and opposite the first panel to form the discharge space and which is transparent, a plurality of pairs of sustaining electrodes formed on the inner surface of the second panel and having a set of first and second electrodes at a predetermined angle with respect to the address electrodes, and a second dielectric layer formed on the second panel and covering the sustaining electrodes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will become more apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a plasma display device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the partitions formed on a first panel of the plasma display panel shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 shows another embodiment of the partitions formed on the first panel shown in FIG. 2; and

FIGS. 4 and 5 are perspective views of additional embodiments of the plasma display device according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0017] Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to the like elements throughout. The embodiments are described below in order to explain the present invention by referring to the figures.

[0018] FIG. 1 shows a plasma display device 10 according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown, the plasma display device 10 includes a first panel 11, address electrodes 12 formed on the first panel 11 in a predetermined pattern, and a first dielectric layer 13, formed on the first panel 11 covering the address electrodes 12. The address electrodes 12 are formed by stripes having predetermined widths and are parallel with each other. It is understood that the pattern of the address electrodes 12 is not limited to that shown by this embodiment.

[0019] A partition structure 20, by which a discharge space is partitioned parallel to the direction of the address electrodes 12, is discontinuously formed on the first dielectric layer 13 between each of the address electrodes 12. The partition structure 20, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, includes a plurality of unit partitions 21 discontinuously formed parallel to the address electrodes 12. Auxiliary partitions 21a extend outward from either side of each unit partition 21 at a predetermined angle (i.e., a right angle, an acute angle, or an obtuse angle) lengthwise with respect to the unit partitions 21. The shown unit partitions 21 each have auxiliary partitions 21a so as to achieve a substantially "H" shape. Here, the auxiliary partitions 21a formed at either side of the unit partition 21 do not contact those 21a' of an adjacent unit partition 21'.

[0020] FIG. 3 shows another embodiment of the present invention, where a partition structure 30 comprises unit partitions 31, 32 and 33. As shown, the unit partitions 32 and 33 are arranged so as to form discharge spaces at both sides of each of the unit partitions 31 which are formed lengthwise with respect to the partition structure 30. That is to say, the unit partitions 31, 32 and 33 are arranged in a delta (triangular) arrangement.

[0021] It is understood that the shapes and arrangements of the unit partitions 31, 32 and 33 forming the partition structure 30 are not limited to the embodiment described above, and can be varied in many ways. In modified examples, partitions are necessarily discontinuously structured, and auxiliary partitions 31a, 32a and 33a are necessarily spaced apart from one another perpendicular to the direction in which the partition structure is arranged.

[0022] As described above in relation to FIGS. 1 and 3, the first panel 11 having the partitions 20 or 30 is coupled to a second panel 40, which is transparent to shut tightly the space therebetween. A plurality of sustaining electrodes 41, which are made of a transparent, conductive material are formed on the inner surface of the second panel 40 orthogonally to the address electrodes 12. The sustaining electrodes 41 comprise pairs of first and second electrodes 41a and 41b. In order to reduce line resistance, bus electrodes 41c and 41d are formed lengthwise on the first and second electrodes 41a and 41b, respectively. The bus electrodes 41c and 41d are formed of a metal such as silver, silver alloy or aluminum, and have widths narrower than those of the first and second electrodes 41a and 41b.

[0023] The sustaining electrodes 41 formed on the second panel 40 are not limited to those in the above-described embodiment. In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 4, sustaining electrodes 50 include first and second metal electrodes 51 and 52 formed of silver or silver alloy parallel to auxiliary partitions 21a of unit partitions 21 forming the partition structure 20. Projecting electrodes 51a and 52a extend from the first and second metal electrodes 51 and 52 over a phosphor layer and parallel to said address electrodes 12. The projecting electrodes 51a and 52a comprise a transparent, conductive material.

[0024] Alternatively, in the embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. 5, sustaining electrodes 60 include first and second electrodes 61 and 62, each having a plurality of sub-metal electrodes 61a & 61b and 62a & 62b, which are both parallel and electrically connected to each other.

[0025] As shown in FIGS. 3 through 5, a black matrix layer 70 is formed on the second panel 40 between each of the aforementioned sustaining electrodes 41, 51, 61 to be parallel to the sustaining electrodes 41, 51, 61. The black matrix layer 70 is preferably formed over the discontinuous portions of the unit partitions 21 (i.e., the portions corresponding to the disconnected portions of the unit partitions 21).

[0026] Referring back to FIG. 1, a second dielectric layer 80 is formed on the panel 40 having the sustaining electrodes 41 and the black matrix layer 70, covering the sustaining electrodes 41 and the black matrix layer 70. A protective layer 90, made of MgO, is formed on the second dielectric layer 80.

[0027] Red (R), green (G) and blue (B) phosphor layers are formed on the inner surface of the spaces partitioned by the unit partitions 21. The R, G and B phosphor layers may be parallel to the length direction of the partition structure 20 having unit partitions 21, or may be disposed in a delta arrangement, as shown in FIG. 3.

[0028] The aforementioned plasma display devices according to the present invention operate as follows.

[0029] First, if a predetermined pulse is applied to the address electrode 12 and one of the first and second electrodes 41a and 41b of the sustaining electrode 41, an address discharge occurs therebetween to generate wall charges on the inner surface of the discharge space. The surface of the dielectric layer 80 between the first and second electrodes 41a and 41b is covered with the generated wall charges.

[0030] Then, if a voltage is applied to the first and second electrodes 41a and 41b which comprise the sustaining electrode 41, a sustaining discharge occurs there between to generate parent beams. The voltage for initiating the sustaining discharge can be reduced by the charges filled between the partitions.

[0031] The phosphor layers coated over the discharge space are excited by the parent beams generated by the selected sustaining discharge to emit light. During this procedure, the phosphor layers excited by the parent beams are formed on the inner surface of the discharge space partitioned by the main part of the unit partition 21 and the auxiliary partitions 21a formed at either ends. As such, the phosphor layers are coated on a relatively wider area, thereby improving the luminance. Also, since the discharge cells are partitioned by the auxiliary partitions 21a, crosstalk between pixels can be prevented.

[0032] Since the plasma display device according to the present invention has the discontinuously formed partition structure 20 and the auxiliary partitions 21a not in contact with adjacent auxiliary partitions 21a', gas exhaustion can be easily performed. Also, since gas exhaustion or injection takes place in every direction along the spaces produced between the disconnected unit partitions 21 and 21', the gas exhausting efficiency and discharge gas injection efficiency can be improved.

[0033] Also, as shown in FIG. 3, in the plasma display device having unit partitions disposed in a delta arrangement, the delta arrangement of the R, G and B phosphors is more advantageous in achieving a clear display.

[0034] As described above, according to the plasma display device of the present invention, phosphors are coated on the bottom surface of a discharge space and the sidewalls of unit partitions and auxiliary partitions, thereby increasing the area where the phosphor layers are formed and improving the luminance. Also, since the partition structure having unit

partitions allows gas exhaustion to take place in every direction along the discharge space, the gas exhausting efficiency can be improved.

[0035] While a few preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it would be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various other embodiments, modifications and adaptations of the invention may be made in these embodiments without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention, the scope of which is defined in the claims and their equivalents.